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The Brooklyn Paper / Tom Callan



The Brooklyn Paper / Greg Mangi

PAY ON SUNDAY

Council, mayor sneak in 7-day meters

By Patrick Gallahue
The Brooklyn Papers

If you thought a whopping property tax hike was the only revenue-raising device passed by the City Council and Mayor Bloomberg last week, guess again. By the end of the year, you'll have to pay the parking meter on Sundays in most Brooklyn neighborhoods.

Harshest hit will be the parking-metered streets of Community Board 2, which encompasses Brooklyn Heights, Dumbo, Bushwick, Williamsburg, Greenpoint, Fort Greene and Clinton Hill. A whopping 33 streets will be affected in CB2, including many with little or no commercial activity on Sunday.

Beginning as early as Dec. 15, you'll have to pay the parking meter on most metered streets around the borough and across the city.

Without meetings, hearings or public review, community boards were asked to vote on changes this week. Last Friday, 25 of them — Lori Astino, the acting Brooklyn Borough Commissioner of the Department of Transportation (DOT), notifying them of which metered streets were about to see six-day-a-week metered parking extended to seven days.

Even before the merits or drawbacks of the plan were delineated, community boards found themselves blindsided by a notice that gave them only about two weeks of warning.

"I think this is big enough that we should have had more notice or more time," said Ray Vanasco, chairman of CB2's traffic and transportation committee.

Signaire replacements are scheduled to begin on Dec. 10, according to a completion for the entire project by late January.

"I think that's big enough that we should have had more notice or more time," said Ray Vanasco, chairman of CB2's traffic and transportation committee.

"We were told what was going to happen," said Vanasco. "We weren't consulted or consulted."

According to the DOT, of the 19,504 parking meters that are about to go into effect on Sunday, 7,282 will be in Brooklyn, compared to 5,029 in Queens, 4,975 in Manhattan and 2,218 in the Bronx and Staten Island.

"If community boards have comments and criticisms, we will be more than willing to listen to them," said DOT spokesman Tom Costa. He added, however, that public input is required for the DOT to make the adjustment.

"I don't know that we'll have the luxury of doing that given that the city's fiscal climate

but it's still generally a good idea to, if nothing else, sugarcoat the news," Hammerner said. "I think it's important that kind of impact this is going to have. For all we know this will have a positive impact on the commercial businesses," which Hammerner added, was the point of metered parking in the first place.

The experiment in parking-metered week

meting came as part of the budget modification agreed upon by Mayor Michael Bloomberg and the City Council to maintain services, while seeking revenue from among other sources, a whop-

ping 8.5 percent property tax hike.

"This was part of the mayor's revenue package," said Brooklyn Heights Councilman David Yassky. "The property tax increase got the most attention but he also

See METERS on page 7



The Brooklyn Paper / Tom Callan

Starting this month, Brooklyn residents will have to feed parking meters on Sunday.

Greeting the season

Holiday spirit was visible throughout the borough this week. (At left) Metrotech Center boasts at 50-foot Blue Spruce, which was officially lit Tuesday in a ceremony that included music and a visit from Santa. (Top right) The enormous menorah in front of Borough Hall was lit on the first night of Hannukah by Rabbi Aaron Raskin and Borough President Marty Markowitz. (Bottom right) In Bath Beach on Nov. 26, Alaa Salem dishes out a feast in a Ramadan celebration at the Muslim Youth Center on Bath Avenue and Bay 22nd Street.

Clones' Teufel shuffle Name Tim manager, raise tickets a buck

By Vince DiMiceli
The Brooklyn Papers

Former Mets second baseman Tim Teufel is the new manager of the Brooklyn Cyclones, but unless fans are willing to sit in the bleachers, they're going to have to shell out an extra buck to see him.

The Cyclones introduced Teufel, 44, who played for the Mets between 1986 and 1991, as their new skipper on

Wednesday. He has 254 with 86 homers and 379 RBIs during his 11-year major league career that also included stints with the Twins and Padres.

They also announced that ticket prices for all seasons except the playoffs will be raised by a dollar apiece. Field box seats will now be \$11, box seats will be \$9, field reserved seats will be \$8 and grandstand seats will be \$7. Manager's box seats will remain at \$5.

"It's the first increase we've had, and it's a fairly nominal

increase," said Cyclones senior vice president of business affairs, R.C. Rossiter. "We think we're giving the fans great value for their money."

The hiring of Teufel to replace Johnson '86 World Champion teammate Howard Johnson (who was removed with the team) should come as no surprise to Cyclones watchers. The Brooklyn Papers reported last September that he would likely take over.

See TEUFEL on page 7



Tim Teufel BP / Greg Mangi

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Monday when asked if corruption at the 76th Precinct was a rampant problem.

Silvestri, who is facing charges of being an accessory to murder, racketeering and destruction of evidence, was a decoy in the 1990s, rising through the force's ranks, winning 48 medals of commendation in his 19 years on the force. Federal Prosecutor Dani James, however, charged that Silvestri "turned his back on his oath."

If convicted, Silvestri faces 15 years in prison, according to the Department of Justice.

Congigliaro, who according to legend wound up in a wheelchair after he and another gangster accidentally shot each other in a bar, started his career in the 76th Precinct, Bradeson and his gang, who were allegedly tired of working for Congigliaro set up his "hit."

According to the indictment, a Bradeson associate, Martin Lewis, shot Congigliaro in his car in 1988. But Congigliaro somehow managed to drive himself to New York Methodist Hospital

See MAFIA on page 8

RAPES ON RISE

By Patrick Gallahue
The Brooklyn Papers

Last week a teenage girl reported to police that she was kidnapped at the corner of Joralemon and Hoyt Streets, forced into a car and raped at gunpoint at another location. Several months earlier, a woman was allegedly beaten and sexually assaulted in an elevator of a downtown Brooklyn building at 50 Court St.

In the second incident a homeless man was taken into custody, while no arrests have yet been made in the first.

Those are just two, however, of 15 reported incidents of rape in the 84th Precinct so far this year, reports a sharp increase in sexual attacks compared to this time last year. The 84th Precinct includes Brooklyn Heights, Downtown Brooklyn, Boerum Hill, DUMBO and Williamsburg.

While overall rape counts have gone up, the smaller number of that 6 percent increase, said Police Commissioner Ray Kelly on Monday. "Acquaintance rape and domestic relations are the two

other areas that have increased."

The percent of the reported increase in rape reports came from the 84th Precinct.

According to Inspector Christopher Rizzo, commanding officer of the 84th Precinct, of the 15 cases reported this year, 12 involve people who knew each other. Of those, only one case remains open, with seven rapes occurring in arrests and four with victims deciding not to press charges. Rising rates of stranger rapes, one remains open, and two resulted in victim non-compliance.

Rising suggested that a close monitoring of domestic violence databases, through visits by officers, may be successfully alerting victims in abusive households of the services that are available, and hence increasing the number of victims willing to go to the police.

"It may be another cause why there's more reporting and more awareness of the multiple kinds of availability of the police department and counseling," Rizzo said. "We're talking about what's going on behind closed doors."

There were almost 300 recorded incidents last year, Rizzo said, up 41 percent compared to last year.

In western Brooklyn figures vary, with modest increases and decreases in different neighborhoods.

See RAPES on page 4

Court scandal yields new rules

By Patrick Gallahue
The Brooklyn Papers

State court officials announced this week a sweeping plan, initiated by a Brooklyn court scandal, to end a lucrative system of political and judicial patronage.

The series of rules regarding the distribution to lawyers of guardianships and receiverships came about after an investigation.

Sparked by a bombshell letter written to the Kings County Democratic Committee, uncovered a widespread system of judicial patronage and corruption.

The new rules, set to take effect by Judge Judith Kaye, limit the amount of money a receiver can collect in a single year, tighten the oversight on receiverships and make an attempt to divorce political patronage from the process, by making state and county political leaders, their law

firms and their immediate relatives ineligible for such appointments.

In addition, former judges and people who served as their campaign officials, their immediate relatives and their law firms will be ineligible for appointments for a period of two years after either the election in which they were involved or leaving the bench.

"The new rules governing fiduciary appointments are the latest step in the court

system's comprehensive program to reform the fiduciary assignment process in New York," said Chief Administrative Judge Jonathan Lippman, in announcing the rules.

Last December, a Commission on Fiduciary Appointments, assembled by Kaye, reported that between 1995 and 1999, an inordinate percentage of receiverships in Brooklyn were given to attorneys connected

See SCANDAL on page 6

Poly opts out of Empire stores

By Patrick Gallahue
The Brooklyn Papers

nation by the Brooklyn Bridge Park Development Corporation (BBPDC). The BBPDC is a subsidiary of the Empire State Development Corporation in charge of creating Brooklyn Bridge Park, a 35-acre commercial and recreational development between the Manhattan Bridge and Pier 5 at Joralemon Street.

After issuing a request-for-proposals (RFP), the BBPDC selected three entities in its selection down to three.

Among those to respond to the RFP were the Empire Stores and Shaya B. Developers. The third candidate

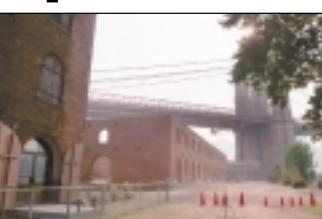
could not be confirmed by press time.

Ben Klein, the vice-president of operations for Shaya B., declined to discuss the proposal in detail but said it met the stipulations of the RFP, which asked for a mix of retail, cultural and commercial uses.

Two Trees spokesman Jed Walentas said, "I haven't heard anything from them one way or the other, so as far as I'm concerned we're still in the running."

Despite Polytech's absence from the proposal, Walentas said.

See EMPIRE on page 6



The Empire Stores at Empire-Fulton Ferry State Park. BP / File photo



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Bandits hit Heights, D'town banks

By Patrick Gallahue
The Brooklyn Papers

The teller handed the robber \$400 and he took off in an downtown direction, police said.

A man walked into a Chase bank on Montague Street at New York Avenue at 3:25 pm on Dec. 2 and passed a teller a note that read, "Pass the money. I have a gun."

The teller handed the robber \$400 and he took off in an downtown direction, police said.

Ten minutes later, at a Chase on Montague Street at New York Avenue, a man using the same general description as the robber of the Flatbush Avenue branch, also passed a note demanding money.

This time the perpetrator took off without taking anything. Police could not explain

the robber's premature departure.

The suspect in both cases was described as a black male, about 25 years old, about 6-foot-3 and 175 pounds.

A man walked into a Chase savings office for the first time this year that a robbery occurred at the Montague Street branch but that there had been an unsuccessful attempt on the Flatbush Avenue branch last May.

In that instance, the suspect,

bearing a similar description, fled without taking anything when the teller began to cry, according to a police report.

The robberies in the 84th Precinct on Monday were the third and fourth this year.

Earlier in the day at 2 pm, a Citibank was robbed in East New York, police said. The robber in that incident also passed a note demanding cash and fled with an undisclosed amount of money. Police,

however, did not have a description or a description of the suspect at next day.

Another pair of bank robberies in which a bandit passed a note to a teller, occurred in Queens, beginning at a North Fork Bank shortly before 10 am.

The thief fled the North Fork Bank with an unknown amount of cash, and soon after, yet another robbery occurred about 40 minutes later, at a

Greenpoint Savings Bank on Queens Boulevard. This time the thief fled with approximately \$7,000.

While in both instances the robber was described as a black male, police said, the Brooklyn Major Case Squad, a wing of the special investigations division, who are handling the Chase cases, are still trying to determine whether any of the bank robberies are connected.

Burgles put cops on alert

By Patrick Gallahue
The Brooklyn Papers

Residents of northern Brooklyn Heights may want to take extra care in fastening their windows and doors.

Last week featured a spate of break-ins around Hicks Street and Middagh streets, all on the same day.

And while Inspector Christopher Rising, commanding officer of the 84th Precinct, said the incidents did not appear to be related due to varying times of entry and disparate MOs, he said police have nevertheless stepped up patrols in the area.

"Our evidence-collection team has gone to every one of [the crime scenes] and we've identified a number of fingerprints," he said.

At least two of the incidents appear to involve a single culprit. In a pair of apartments on a building on Hicks Street, between Middagh and Cranberry streets, burglars broke in through windows during the late escape on Nov. 20.

A 30-year-old woman tenant, who remained nameless, had left home at 8 am and returned that evening to find that he'd been robbed of \$11,000 in jewelry and a \$2,100 laptop computer.

Another apartment in the same building was robbed via the fire escape, between 10 am and 5:30 pm, of property valued at \$14,000.

Also on Nov. 20, a home on Cranberry Street, between Hicks and Henry streets, was robbed of a computer, jewelry and silverware valued at \$15,400, sometime between 8:20 am and noon.

"We're looking at them, but there's nothing that jumps off and says there all related," Rising said.

The 84th Precinct conducts free home security surveys. To schedule one, call (718) 875-6363.



Grove honors victims

Matthew Aron of the U.S. Forest Service, Asst. Port Authority Police Chief Michael Valenti (partially obscured), Brooklyn South Chief Joseph Fox and State Sen. Seymour Lachman dig holes for new planting at ceremony debuting Sunset Park's Memorial Grove of Trees to commemorate the victims of the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks. The grove will consist of 45 trees inside the park at Fifth Avenue and 43rd Street.

The Brooklyn Papers / Shem Liberman

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'Affordable' Columbia Street ready to debut

By Patrick Gallahue
The Brooklyn Papers

For Carroll Gardens merchant and activist Buddy Scott, Thursday, Dec. 5 is going to be a very special day.

After years of lobbying for affordable housing in Carroll Gardens, the Columbia Street Waterfront District and Red Hook, Scott will see the ribbon cut on 14 new residential buildings in the waterfront district.

The \$10-million project includes 24 condominiums and six buildings in the corner of Union and Columbia streets and eight townhouses between Columbia and Woodhull streets.

"This is essentially middle-income housing and an effort to deal with gentrification, and we can't tell people they can't afford to live in this city," said Scott, who owns the Scott Funeral Home. "It is a reminder of the Carroll Gardens Association, which worked with the New York City Partnership to make the project happen."

The townhouses have been

occupied since July, although applications for the condos are still being reviewed.

Construction on the six condominium buildings at 109, 111 and 113 Union St., and 216, 222 and 224 Columbia St., began last summer, and sold for an average of \$117,425 for people with household incomes between \$36,000 and \$75,000.

Of the 24 units, 18 are two-bedroom, and the remaining six are one-bedroom units.

"The average price comes to \$267, 303 and 305 Columbia St., and at 90 Kane St., as well as two-family townhouses at 133, 135, 137 and 139 Columbia St., which sell for between \$359,000 and \$524,000."

Subsidies from the New York State Affordable Housing Corporation, which contributed \$240,000, and Borough Hall, Mayor Rudolph W. Giuliani's office, helped reduce the cost of those properties.

During a community meeting, Scott last year by the land use committee of Community Board 6, objections were raised that the prices would be prohibitive to people



The condo at 222 Columbia St. (left) and townhouses at 303 and 305 Columbia St. (above) are part of the new housing built in Carroll Gardens. *The Brooklyn Papers / Tom Callan*

already living in the area.

"I do support the project, it's a good project," said CB6 member Pauline Blakie, "but income levels that they were using for townhouses those houses were a little too high for certain people."

The New York City Partnership responded that the

condominiums were "affordable," as opposed to "low income" when the critics insist were made last year.

"Of course not enough," Scott said this week.

He also said there had been complaints that the system was chosen by a lottery, making it look "like a lottery yet been selected.

The buildings were constructed by John Frezza, owner of Construction Group, Freezza & Associates, a developer Corporation's selected developer for a lot bounded by Hoyt, Schermerhorn, State and Bond streets in Downtown Brooklyn.

Meanwhile, in the 78th Precinct of Park Slope, Borough Hill and Gowanus, there were nine reported rapes as of mid-November, compared to eight the same time last year, and in the 76th Precinct of Carroll Gardens, Gowanus and Boerum Hill, reports of rape have increased from four to nine.

Last week, the City Council's Public Safety Committee — which includes council members David Yassky, of Brooklyn Heights, Marty Golden, of Bay Ridge, and James Davis, of Fort Greene — heard testimony from the police department on the increase.

"It is something the police department is focused on because of the increase," said Yassky.

The Public Safety Committee passed a resolution on Nov. 26 urging the state legislature to extend the statute of limitations for rape and other sex crimes from five to 10 years.

RAPES...

Continued from page 1

In the 68th Precinct, which includes Bay Ridge and Dyker Heights, the number of reported rapes of mid-November, was exactly the same as this time last year.

In the 72nd Precinct, which includes Windsor Terrace and Sunset Park, there have been 23 reported rapes this year compared to 30 this time last year.

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While it's been theorized that improved investigative tools have given victims a valuable edge in specifically pinning the guilt of their perpetrator, the department is not certain if there is an increase in reports versus an actual rise in incidents, according to testimony before the committee.

Kelly also vowed on Monday that the NYPD's special victims unit would be "restructured and reorganized" to deal with the increase in rape reports.

"Stranger rape has gone up, and we are looking at it closely," said Kelly, adding, "Improving investigation and restoring the [special victims] unit."

As to why rape is on the rise, while the major crime category is down, the commissioner said, "It's difficult to say. We are looking at it closely. One possible explanation is that it's being reported more accurately."

"People don't have a theory for much of the upswing and they hope it's an aberration," Yassky said.

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"I am 6 feet 2 inches, 220 pounds and I fought for this country for 11 years all of a sudden I'm expected to give up," said Phelps. "I was mad at myself for being in pain, mad at my family for not understanding my pain and mad at the medical community for not helping me to alleviate my pain."

It was 1986 when Phelps' pain began. After 11 years in the U.S. Air Force, he suffered a devastating automobile accident that left him with severe leg, lower back and hip pain.

Following his injury, Phelps sought out aggressive treatment.

Phelps found this treatment

undergo a series of hip replacements in Houston.

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"After going over his history, I decided to place him on a pain management regimen that was comprised of medication management, physical injections, psychosocial counseling and pain management," said Leff.

"Dr. Leff was the first doctor to really listen to me. He believed in my pain and I appreciated that," said Scott Fishman, anesthesiologist and psychiatrist at UC Davis and author of the book, "The War on Pain."

Phelps' chronic pain has its own set of risks, and we need to know that if we don't treat it there are terrible outcomes that occur not only in human suffering but also in medical expenses.

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Phelps has been seeing Dr.

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BID in works for Myrtle Avenue

By Patrick Gallahue
The Brooklyn Papers

Myrtle Avenue, linking downtown to central Brooklyn, may soon have its own business improvement district.

More than 30 merchants and business leaders attended a pair of meetings on Nov. 20 to discuss the avenue's priorities and outline the advantages of creating a business improvement district (BID).

While no one merchant or property owner support this neighborhood BID could be a really good transition from the downtown business district to the east, says Jennifer Gerend, executive director of the Myrtle Avenue Revitalization Project Local Development Corporation, which is spearheading efforts to bring a BID to Myrtle Avenue.

While Gerend said it was too early to draw the parameters for the BID, a rough approximation might be from Meschede, Bedford or Clason avenues in Bedford-Stuyvesant.

A BID levies an assessment of a percentage of the assessed value of the properties within the footprint — square-footage and storefront square-footage — from the property owners or merchants. These funds are collected by the city Department of Finance and circulated through the city Department of Small Business Services, back to the district manager association, which runs the BID to finance ancillary services such as garbage collection, signage improvement or other priorities as determined by the participants.

The Myrtle Avenue Revitalization Project has essentially begun the first of two phases for the BID's formation by recruiting a steering committee and setting business needs and landlords in the area. The target for completion of Phase I between three and six months.

Phase II involves collecting property owner and tenant information, finalizing district plans and coordinating meetings between city agencies and the tenants, which is also

supposed to take between three to six months.

"If we can't create a BID for Myrtle Avenue this would create a really sustainable solution on the avenue for a long time," Gerend said.

"This would be a mechanism to provide incentives to the strip for the foreseeable future."

Once both phases are completed, the BID's formation must be approved by the related committees, but through which the BID passes, the City Planning Commission, the City Council and ultimately, the mayor, said Mark Newhouse, a spokesman for the city's Small Business Development Corp.

"It's a growing destination retail and commercial center," Newhouse said. "[Myrtle Avenue] is exactly the kind of place that the business improvement program is meant to support."

Myrtle Avenue has experienced a resurgence in recent

years with the creation of the Myrtle Avenue LDC in 1999, which has sought to recruit new businesses to the avenue.

Identifying the need for more business diversity, the LDC has worked to bring a cafe, florist and butcher to Myrtle Avenue, to join the existing retail base of businesses such as Breyers Bagels on Myrtle Avenue at Hall Street and a Duane Reade drugstore near Flatbush Avenue.

Employment devices, such as a recruitment campaign known as "Rolling Up the Gates," using a database of available commercial space, the LDC held an open house in storefronts such as Breyers Bagels on Myrtle Avenue at Hall Street and a Duane Reade drugstore near Flatbush Avenue.

The event earned the LDC the Barbara Wolff Award for economic development presented by the Small Business Services Commissioner Rob Walsh and Mayor Michael Bloomberg last July.



Torah Torah!

Joe Ostrowsky carries the Torah he donated to Congregation Mt. Sinai at a ceremony Nov. 24. Ostrowsky donated the Torah in memory of his parents. *The Brooklyn Papers / Greg Mangi*



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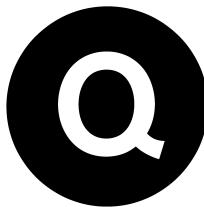
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PARENT

Dividing time over holidays

Q: "When my son and his family visit from out of town, they spend more time with his wife's mother, who lives in the same city as I do. I feel neglected, particularly on holidays..." — a grandmother

A: After years of repeated family time, one grandmother has given up and doesn't expect her son to stay for any holiday dinners.

Even when parents make more of an effort to balance time with extended families, someone inevitably winds up feeling left out or stressed out.

"It's aggravating," says mother-of-three who strives to strengthen ties with her sets of out-of-state grandparents while building traditions in her own home. "It's exhausting when there are so many variables to organize. You feel like you're trying to stretch too much."

Tension over how time is divided — how to be at once three different places at once — continues to challenge parents to build new traditions for their own children, pressure and guilt trips make things worse.

When you put pressure on you to do damage," says Sue Johnson, a grandmother who wrote "Grandliving: Making Memories With Your Grandchildren" (HarperCollins, Prentice-Hall), with her daughter-in-law.

"Give your children their wings and they will fly away and return. Try to hold on, and they will resist and bolt."

What if you even if it's a fit of sheer desperation as a grandparent? "Saying out loud that you appreciate the help is a gift when it does happen," says Johnson.

Grandparents need to realize we're two family traditions to be combined, Johnson says.

A grandfather agrees: "The traditions of two families, when you are first married takes some thinking and being considerate. You can't go all one family's way. Many of us have grown up trying to please both, but your main focus has to be on your spouse and children."

Different approaches to gain family time:

- Consider who there's an infant or your daughter-in-law just selfish? Or does the "other" grandmother have a more child-friendly house? Is she more flexible about scheduling tasks, activities around a child's needs? Flexible no-touch treasures make some parents less inclined to visit.

- If holidays look beyond celebrating only on a certain date. A mother in Dallas says her mother has been the one to be flexible, while her mother-in-law insists on celebrating on Thanksgiving Day and on Dec. 25. Can't be done, but still share some of your traditions with your grandkids? Looking back, one grandmother resents that she gave up her own Christmas traditions to travel to spend time with her children and grandchildren. "I did this to accommodate my daughters-in-law who rarely come to leave their mothers at the holidays," she says. "The result of my flexibility is that I lost myself."

- A mother of twins says her parents were willing to gather together, but her in-laws were not, so they alternated holidays.



Parent-to-Parent



By Betsy Flagger

Another mother of three kids has made the most of having her in-laws and parents in the same town, about two hours from her. She invites both sets of grandparents to her home for the holidays. For her family, she says, there's a joy in not having to choose between grandparents.

It's time to count your blessings, even though you'd like more time with your grandchild. From an excluded grandmother: "My husband and I feel like outcasts, forgotten and left behind. These visits with our nearby grandsons are so rare. My son's wife dictates all policies and is so devoted to her family. When I mention my son tells me to just give it a time."

The grandmother puts some of her energy and disappointment into a journal and scrapbooks, and hopes for a change of heart.

For more tips, go to the "Grandliving" website at www.grandliving.com.

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SCANDAL...

Continued from page 1

ed to the Kings County Democratic Committee.

"Court-appointed fiduciaries are appointed with control of the personal and financial interests of some of the most vulnerable members of society — widows, orphans, incapacitated persons and others," says Judith Kaye, said this week. "It's imperative that these assignments be made solely on the basis of merit."

When confronted last year with the allegations of corruption, representatives of the Kings County Democrats shot back that it made sense to appoint someone who was known to that judge.

The attorney general, Alan D. Feldman, executive director of the Kings County Democratic Committee, declined to comment.

Under the new rules, new fiduciary appointments will be called from eligibility lists and meet specific training and experience requirements to be included on the roster.

"It would be to be, if you wanted to be, if you wanted to be on the list," said Lippman. "Now there are going to be specific training requirements. We are not going to be on the list yet. But at the very least, they are going to be training in the area that you want to serve in, and second, training on the new rules — the dos and the don'ts."

Receivers, or fiduciaries, are appointed to control a business or property when it is the subject of a civil action, most commonly in cases of insolvency. Generally, receivers are paid from the proceeds that the properties or businesses yield during the time they manage them.

Among the new dos and don'ts, fiduciaries may receive only one appointment in a single calendar year, paying \$5,000 or more. Fiduciaries who receive \$50,000 or more in aggregate payments from their appointments in a single calendar year will be ineligible for appointments in the next calendar year unless they receive \$50,000 or more in fiduciary appointments must provide a written justification for the award.

Most of the rules will take effect on Jan. 1, while the establishing lists will not be established until June 1.

The Office for the Special Inspector General for Fiduciary Affairs, which was created last year, said that 52 percent of the receiverships in the studied time were doled out to 16 individuals with connections to the

county. The county leader who sent the letter to more than 40 district leaders in Brooklyn was it was subsequently made public.

At the time, Kings County Democratic Committee Chairman Clarence Norman emphatically denied a link between his party and court appointments.

"There is no 'patronage system' between the Democratic Party and the courts," Norman told The Brooklyn Paper after reading the letter. "We have no influence over the affairs of guardians over the affairs of incapacitated persons. People who are appointed to do that work," Lippman said. "So now we're going to pilot it as, basically, court systems."

The rules were approved by the state Court of Appeals after consultation with the Administrative Board of the Courts and were based on a series of recommendations by the Commission on Fiduciary Appointments.



Chief Judge Judith Kaye

"Norman said in January 2000,

Batra, in May 2000, resigned as counsel to the Cypress Hills Center after Attorney General Eliot Spitzer lobbied the judge on the case to have him removed.

The state court system also announced this week the creation of the First and Second Departments, comprising Brooklyn, Queens, Long Island, Westchester, Manhattan and the Bronx, in an effort to cut costs and reduce trial backlog. The new departments will review the reports and accountings of guardians over the affairs of incapacitated persons.

Under the new rules, new fiduciaries right now are people who are appointed to do that work," Lippman said. "So now we're going to pilot it as, basically, court systems."

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METERS...

Continued from page 1

proposed a bunch of other fee increases and things like that.

"I think, ideally, more community input and public input would have been involved, but the mayor was pressing for a very quick action on his budget gap-closing program and with some justification," Yasky added. "Because we are in the middle of a fiscal year and had gone on like this we would

have ended up in a billion-dollar hole."

Of the Brooklyn delegation only Borough President James Oddo, the county's majority leader, and Councilman James Davis voted against the budget. Davis, however, said it was the lottery portion of the property tax hike that upset him about the budget, claiming that service cuts could have been avoided with a lesser

percentage and that there should have been exemptions to the elderly and disabled.

In this fiscal year, the Sunday meters are expected to raise an extra \$1 million while in the next fiscal year it is anticipated they could collect an additional \$3.5 million.

The purpose of the expansion was clearly to raise revenue, but DOT hoped it might also assist stores and targeted re-

tail streets for the expansion.

The selection of streets was "based on circulation," Cocola said.

Though some possible benefits, Yasky grudgingly accepted it was a necessary evil to help fill the city's depleted coffers.

"It's not a good idea, it's necessary to do," Yasky said. "I don't see a policy justification for it beyond the revenue."

In CB 26, which includes Park Slope, Cobble Hill, Carroll Gardens, Gowanus and

Red Hook, metered parking will be extended from six to seven days on Eighth Avenue from Berkeley Place to Grand Army Plaza; Flatbush Avenue from Grand Army Plaza to Parkside Avenue; Fourth Street from 10th Street to Lincoln Place; Fifth Avenue from Pacific Street to 15th Street; Ninth Street from Fourth Avenue to Sixth Avenue; Court Street from Franklin Avenue to Nelson Street; Smith Street from Atlantic Avenue to Second Street; and Atlantic Avenue from Hicks to Court streets.

In CB 12, which by far had the largest number of streets affected, streets that will change to seven-day parking

are Atlantic Avenue from Middagh Street; Cadman Plaza East from Johnson Street to Tillary Street; Court Street from Montague Street to Pierrepont Street; Myrtle Avenue from Franklin Street to Henry Street; Henry Street from Jay Street to Bridge Street; Clark Street from Henry Street to Court Street; Furman Street and Water Street from Old Fulton Street to New Dorp Street; Front Street from Old Fulton Street to Old York Street; Evert Street from Old York Street to Water Street; Henry Street from Clark Street to Middagh Street; Clinton Street from Livingston Street to Middagh Street; Cadman Plaza

West from Tillary Street to Willoughby Street; Ashland Place from Tillary Street to Clinton Street; Willoughby Street from Jay Street to Ashland Place; Smith Street from Atlantic Avenue to Warren Street; Court Street from Warren Street to Atlantic Avenue; Atlantic Avenue from Third to Fourth avenues; and Fourth Avenue from Bergen Street to Franklin Avenue.

In CB 7, which includes Sunset Park and Windsor Terrace, the Sunday rules will affect Fifth Avenue from 15th Street to 22nd Street; Sixth Street from 38th Street to 64th Street; and Fourth Avenue from 39th Street to 40th Street and from 59th Street to 64th Street.

TEUFEL...

Continued from page 1

from Hilo to it always appeared Teufel, who worked as a roving infidler instructor for the Mets that past two years, was being groomed for the job.

"I had asked Tim if he would be interested in managing two years back," said Cyclones executive vice president Wayne Winkler.

"I had given him some prodigies [Mets senior assistant general manager] Jim Duquette gave him some prodigies. We said, 'Maybe you'll like it.' He said, 'Yes' and it will definitely be a great learning experience for him.'

"When I was roving, Jeff had told me that if I had the itch to manage, I should go up to Brooklyn," Teufel said. "This year provided the perfect opportunity for both parties to have it happen."

Teufel, who lives in Connecticut and is still on renting a home in the Brooklyn area, added that he was excited that his first experience managing in the minor leagues would take place in Brooklyn.

"It's going to be a great place to come," he said. "All the energy there, how the people support that town. The

kids don't know how good they've got it. It's really a remarkable place."

Teufel becomes the third manager in three seasons for the club, replacing Johnson (who led the team to a 10-10 record) and 38-38, fourth-place finish in 2002. In the Cyclones' inaugural season, Edgardo Alfonzo — the brother of Mets third baseman Edgardo Alfonzo — guided the team to a 52-24 record and a share of the New York Penn League championship.

2003 schedule

The New York-Penn League's 2003 schedule is set with the Cyclones opening the season on June 17 with six road games, against Aberdeen, New Jersey and Staten Island, before their home opener on June 19 at the New York Yankees, who last season dethroned the Cyclones as New York-Penn champions.

See schedule at left.

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Ramadan conclusion nears

By Deborah Kolben
The Brooklyn Papers

"Ramadan is not only about fasting from sunrise to sundown, it's about teaching yourself discipline and punishment," explained Ramy Abdel-Naby, a 14-year-old from Brooklyn Heights, a member of the Muslim Youth Center on Bath Avenue at Bay 22nd Street.

The Muslim holy month, which will end on either Thursday or Friday depending on the sighting of the crescent moon, is a time during which practitioners abstain from food, drink and tobacco during daylight. At night, Palestinians, Egyptians, Yemenis and thousands of Muslims gather in the center to share the sweet taste of dates and to pray as the sun goes down. Following the prayers, dinner catered by a Halal restaurant Atlantic Avenue is served.

Ramadan ends with the festive holiday of Eid al-Fitr. Before being renovated last year, the Muslim Youth Center was a small hall known as the Colonial Mansion. Dangling chandeliers remain, but a new playroom was added and several other updates were made to the facility.

The upstairs ballroom accommodates the more than 100 community members who come to break fast and provides enough room to create a separate section for men and women, who cannot pray together.

Despite the physical tasks of

Ramadan, which include rising in the dark at 5 am prayer, most Muslims consider the holiday "Ramadan is better than any other month," said Saida Daoud, a Muslim woman from Bensonhurst.

"You feel relief," said Daoud. "The sky opens."

"Ramadan is a time of year when Muslims can ask for anything they want — freedom, health, to pass a test," said Abd-el-Naby. "All devils are chained up, so if you do something bad, God forgives you, and the devil. So you know that is something you have to change."

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Gallery opens with Harvey Wang exhibit

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DINING



Biscuit rising

JOSH COHEN Josh Cohen, former chef of Relish, in Williamsburg, has opened Biscuit, a Carolina-style BBQ restaurant on Flatbush Avenue off of Sixth Avenue, right on the edge of Park Slope and Prospect Heights.

"BBQ brings people together," says Cohen, who grew up in the Slope and still resides there. (Acting as manager is Cohen's childhood friend Robert Lorenzo.)

Tina Barry (pictured), who sharpened her dough-kneading skills in New York's Bouley restaurant and the Russian Tea Room, bakes the restaurant's signature buttermilk biscuits several times a day.

Cohen's menu also features dry-rubbed pork ribs and chicken that is hot-smoked on site; cold-smoked and then broiled salmon; pulled pork sandwiches; barbecue mac and cheese; red beans and rice; collard greens and, for those who like a little meat with their meat, there's the "lone bone," a single BBQ-ed rib.

Desserts are inspired by church suppers with Devil's Advocate cake as well as pecan pie apple pie. And that's "old school to sweet chile lime upside down cake," says Cohen's baby sister.

Biscuit (367 Flatbush Ave, between Seventh Avenue and Sterling Place) accepts cash only. Entrees: \$6-\$13. For information, call (718) 398-2227.

—Tina Barry

THEATER

Reaching out

New theater company mounts an interactive 'Scrooge' in Bklyn

By Lisa J. Curtis
The Brooklyn Papers

There's a new theater company in town.

This year, the Waterloo Bridge Theatre Company will present its production of "Scrooge: A Christmas Carol," directed by J. Brandon Hill, at the Impact Theatre in Prospect Heights.

The play, which runs from Dec. 17 to Jan. 5, is a year-old company's first production, but it's been in the works since last summer at West 38th Street at Seventh Avenue in Manhattan as well as at the Port Authority Bus Terminal two years ago.

Then their landlord raised their rent.

"We raised the rent to astronomical levels," Hill told GO Brooklyn, which forced the off-off-Broadway troupe way off Broadway and into Prospect Heights. They came to Brooklyn's ARTINY Space on South Oxford Street to perform for the past year, but were still without a home.

Tin Lewis, artistic director of the Impact Theatre, took Waterloo in.

"I've known Tim for a long time," said Hill, the founder and artistic director of Waterloo. "I acted in his theater company in Manhattan. Right before we got our own space, he moved his company back to Manhattan. (Waterloo's) mega-long range goal, however, is to get our own theater, but rent is just so expensive."

The Impact Theatre space adjacent to Waterloo to do more performances of "Scrooge" now and a "Scenes-fic" version of "The Tempest" in March," explained Hill.

"Moving to the Impact Theatre is a natural step for the Waterloo Bridge Theatre Company because it gives us the opportunity to become a permanent fixture in the burgeoning arts community in Brooklyn," said Hill, a Park Slope resident.

The Impact Theatre is the same name under the artistic direction of Lewis. The Impact Theatre company, also a displaced Midtown Manhattan troupe, arrived in December 2000, and Teatro Experimental Bilingual Amigos (TEBA), a bilingual theater company, joined Impact in June 2001. Since then, TEBA has changed from Impact's partner to only renting its space.

The theater was formerly occupied by the Boundlesspeak Theatre Inc. The theater survived under the name Underhill '90 for just one year before Boundlesspeak threw in the towel and Lewis took over.

"Waterloo does really good work, like TEBA," said Lewis. "They have a few things going like an improv group and a comedy improv group. They are very aggressive. I'm very happy to have them."

Hill is confident that his company's interactive approach to staging will make Waterloo to have more success and longevity than its predecessors, while keeping tickets at affordable, off-off-Broadway prices.

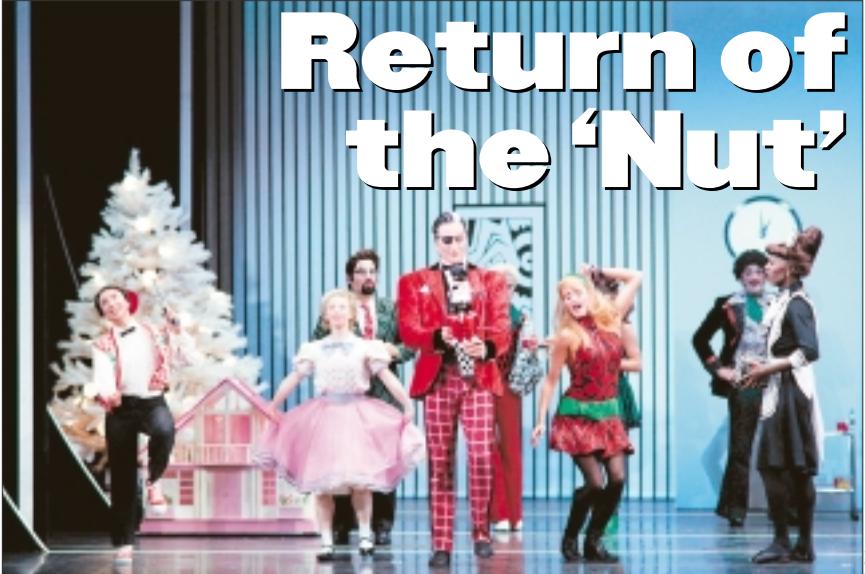
"It's always a bit of a gamble, sort of bringing a few Hollywood stars into your show," said Hill. "But we put theatricality back into theater. Try to figure out what theater can offer that the other arts can't, hopefully, that will excite the people."

"We really want to be part of the community. We really want to bring down the fourth wall, to talk to the community and hear what

they think."

See CAROL on page GO 6

Return of the 'Nut'



Mark Morris' exuberant take on 'The Nutcracker' returns to BAM

By Paulanne Simmons
For The Brooklyn Papers

After an almost 10-year hiatus, Mark Morris' "The Hard Nut" is back at BAM this weekend. What's more, the seven-performance engagement reunites the Mark Morris Dance Group with the Brooklyn Philharmonic, the orchestra that performed at both the 1992 debut and the 1993 engagment at BAM.

"The Hard Nut" makes an irreverent nod to E.T.A. Hoffmann's classic book "The Nutcracker" and a non-traditional bow to legendary choreographers Lev Ivanov and George Balanchine.

"It premiered in 1991 in Brussels, where the Mark Morris Dance Group was based at the Theatre de la Monnaie as the national dance company of Belgium, and the piece has been a hit ever since," says Morris. "It's been in the San Francisco Bay area. This month, the group will forgo its Berkeley engagement to celebrate its 100th performance on its opening night at BAM."

"This year it worked out," Morris told GO Brooklyn. "I'd like to be here every year."

Morris's relationship with BAM began in 1984, "very early in the New Wave series," he said. "We were asked to perform. I was just starting out."

"The Hard Nut" takes place in the 1970s in a suburban setting that features whining children, an omnipresent television and enthusiastic guests who arrive bearing armloads of gifts. The choreography sets by Adrianna Lobel are based on the drawings of comic book artist Charles Burns.

"It's exciting and fun and all at the same time," Morris said.

But Morris' "Hard Nut" is "totally classically structured." For one thing, his goal is not to overshadow but rather illuminate Tchaikovsky's original score.



Cracking up: (Top) Dancers June Omura, Lauren Grant, general director Barry Altsman, Rob Besserer, Greg Nuber, Maile Okamura (hidden), Julie Worden, choreographer Mark Morris and Kraig Patterson in a scene from Morris' "Nutcracker" adaptation, "The Hard Nut." (Above) Dancers, in costumes by Martin Pakledinaz, fling handfuls of flakes.

"I completely re-appraised it from scratch," he said. "If you grow up as a dancer, you hear the music too much, and it loses its musical value. I wanted to revisit the music in its beauty."

On the other hand, he noted that the production changes with virtually every performance.

"The whole first act is based on interaction," Morris said. "It's a very open interaction with characters that change night by night. That keeps us on our toes."

For Brooklynites, however, the nicest part of the production's return to Brooklyn is the company's continued commitment of the Brooklyn Philharmonic and the Mark Morris Dance Group.

"BAM is an important relationship for

Ten years later," he said.

"There are several original people — like me — and several new people," Morris said.

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DANCE

The Mark Morris Dance Group's production of "The Hard Nut" will be performed Dec. 21 at 7 p.m. and Dec. 22 at 3 p.m. Tickets: \$25-\$40. Call (718) 632-4100 or visit the Web site at www.brooklynmuseum.org. The Brooklyn House is located at 30 Lafayette Ave. at Ashland Place in Fort Greene. The Next Wave Festival continues through Dec. 17. Call (718) 632-4182 for gala tickets.

us, as is working with other artistic organizations "on-campus" in the Brooklyn cultural district," said Cahill. "We're delighted that we will be performing during the holiday season, and we hope to become acquainted with the audiences and to introduce them to the Brooklyn Philharmonic."

In fact, it is only the second of three performances of "The Hard Nut" with BAM this year; the other two are Osvaldo Galuppo's "La Pasión Según San Marcos" and Mozart's "Così Fan Tutte," which will be performed this spring.

On Dec. 17, BAM will celebrate 20 years of the Next Wave Festival with a reception preceding and a gala dinner following "The Hard Nut" performance.

Morris, 46, who was born in Seattle, Wash., and moved to New York City in 1976, considers BAM "pretty much our home."

"My studio is here," he said. "We're right across the street from BAM. Half my company lives in Brooklyn. We have a dance school that's totally blossoming. We've got more than 300 kids from the neighborhood. We're putting on the show for 70 kids."

When asked where he thinks he'll be from now on, Morris promptly responded: "Right here."

"He loves sky and air and sunlight," he said. "And we're across the street from the neighborhood. We're putting on the show for 70 kids."

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Artistic director J. Brandon Hill will narrate "Scrooge."

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Art for everyone

New Popcorn Room opens with exhibit of Wang's work

By Lisa J. Curtis
The Brooklyn Papers

Jon Kane is adept at pining the curiosity of his Park Slope neighbors.

Like the time he filled his workshop with popcorn. Optic Nerve, his film production company, spent \$400 Fifth St., at Sixth Avenue, as an editing room when his company's needs overflowed their adjacent space. To assuage his guilt, "I just had to fill up my windows," he says. He filled his front window with popcorn.

The fluffy kernels drew the curious, who came and inquired what was behind the edifice installation, but not until this week has there been an attraction to the popcorn room.

On Dec. 7, Kane unveils The Popcorn Room, his fine new art gallery, which will feature "Harvey Wang's America: Photography 1973-1995" as its inaugural exhibit. The 13-foot-by-17-foot space holds just over 20 of Wang's photographs.

"These are some of the strongest images I've made in my life," Wang told GO BROOKLYN in a telephone interview. Buffalo, where he's making a short film about a 93-year-old photographe.

Wang, a flatbush resident, is known for his black-and-white portraits of working-class Americans featured in the book "Harvey Wang's America" (WW. Norton and Company, 1990) and in his collaboration with David Isaacs, "Holding On: Dreamers, Visionaries, Eccentrics, and Other American Heroes" (Norton, 1996). His photographs from those two books were exhibited at the National Museum of

the holiday season, \$25 per person, 10 and 11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. At St. Augustine Church, 116 Sixth Ave.

NEXT WAVE Brooklyn Academy of Music presents Ann Hamilton's "Memory," \$45, \$30, \$20, 7:30 p.m. Also, BAM Dialogue with Michael Tilson Thomas, who follows performance. Included in admission price. Call 787-7700.

HOLIDAY SHOW Brooklyn Music School presents "A Brooklyn Christmas," \$25, \$20, 7:30 p.m. at 126 St. Felix St. (718) 638-5660.

JAZZ Brooklyn Conservatory of Music presents the vocalistic performances of Howard O'Farrell, \$20, \$15 students and seniors, 7 p.m. at Seventh Ave. (718) 622-3300.

THEATER Waterloos Bridge Theater presents "Scrooge," an adaptation of Dickens' "A Christmas Carol," \$12.50, 8 p.m. Saturday, 7:30 p.m. Undine Avenue, (917) 842-0100.

HEIGHTS PLAYERS presents "The Wizard of Oz," \$10, 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. for children and children, 8 p.m. 26 Willow Place, (718) 237-2200.

ST. ANN'S WAREHOUSE: pres-

ART

"Harvey Wang's America: Photography 1973-1995" will be on view at the Popcorn Room (402 Fifth St. at Sixth Avenue), Dec. 7 through Jan. 31. Hours are 11 am to 7 p.m., weekdays, and 10 am to 6 p.m., weekends. Closed Tuesday. For more information call (718) 369-3219. The opening reception is on Dec. 7, 6-8 p.m.

American History at the Smithsonian Institute in Washington, D.C., and traveled worldwide throughout the United States since 1995.

In Brooklyn, a couple of his photographs were included in the "Jews of Brooklyn" exhibit at Long Island University's Salena Gallery last February and March. It is in the collection of the Brooklyn Museum of Art.

Wang has even received Emmy Awards for his work on WNET's City Arts. His most recent book is "Flora, Life on the Bowery" (Random House, 2000).

Kane met the working man's photographer-filmmaker several years ago at Celsus Films, a commercial film company where both men worked as directors.

Kane's inaugural exhibit, born out of that friendship, is a coup for Brooklyn.

"This is the first time this collection will be publicly displayed," he said.

Wang elaborated: "Some of the individuals we see here in Brooklyn are very taken on assignment for a magazine, but the pictures in this collection are not part of any other series or book. They are just my take on America, my experience as a photographer, my journey as a photographer, my life."

Wang hopes the complete collec-

tion, called "Harvey Wang's America," will be picked up by a publisher.

Of the photographs on display at the Popcorn Room, some represent poignant moments in New York City history.

"NYC 1995," which was shot inside the ticket booth of the Walter Reade Theater at Lincoln Center.

"I was assigned to do a photo of the John Lennon, to a portrait of a dead person," he said. "I took a picture on that picture in 1995 — I didn't stop taking pictures then."

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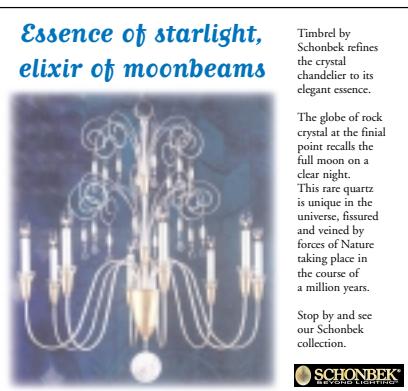
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